

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: HURRICANE FIFI STORY

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3032

1 HONDURAN PRESS AND RADIO CONTINUE TO SHOW INTEREST IN UPI STORY WHICH NOT ONLY APPEARED IN FRONT PAGES OF TIEMPO AND CRONISTA BUT ALSO IN LATIN AMERICA EDITION OF MIAMI HERALD JULY 15.

2. AFTER USIS BRIEFING HRN NEW COMMENTATOR MOISES ULLOA MADE EXCELLENT SATYRICAL COMMENTARY YESTERDAY MORNING (JULY 16) ON DR. VIVO'S DECLARATIONS, TOTALLY DISCREDITING THE MEXICAN SCIENTIST. SIMILAR COMMENTARY WAS MADE BY NAPOLEON MAIRENA TERCERO, RADIO CENTRO, WHO INTERVIEWED MR. NEAL FRANK, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER IN CORAL GABLES. ON THE DISSIDENT SIDE WAS JONATHAN ROUSSELL, UNION RADIO, AND ARTURO SAGASTUME, RADIO TIC TAC, WHO EVEN ASKED THE STUDENTS TO MARCH PROTESTING AGAINST USA AND DEMANDING 500 MILLION DOLLARS INDEMNITY.

3. AFTER CHECKING WITH THE NHC, USIS FACILITATED A
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TAPED INTERVIEW OF RADIO CENTRO. MR. FRANK INFORMED THE

HONDURAN PUBLIC THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY SEEDING OF HURRICANES WITH SILVER-IODIDE IN FOUR YEARS OR SINCE 1971. HE ADDED THAT WHEN TESTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT THE U.S. HAD MADE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE EXPERIMENTS WERE CONDUCTED WHEN THE STORMS WERE OUT AT SEA (IN ATLANTIC) AT LEAST 24 TO 36 HOURS FROM THE NEAREST LAND AND NEVER OVER LAND OR OVER THE CARRIBEAN. FRANK ADDED THAT THE NHC WAS AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF HONDURAN CITIZENS AS THEY WERE FOR AMERICANS.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OF DR. VIVO'S CREDENTIALS, FRANK DIPLOMATICALLY STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW VIVO BUT THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE MAN WAS A GEOGRAPHER AND NOT A METEOROLOGIST AND THAT VIVO WAS UNABLE TO PROVE HIS THEORY. FRANK ADDED THAT IT PAINED HIM THAT THIS MAN WOULD BELIEVE EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE - THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES IN ORDER TO SAVE TOURIST DOLLARS.

5. THE ABOVE INTERVIEW WAS TRANSCRIBED AND PASSED AS AN EXCLUSIVE STORY TONPL CRONISTA AND APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE TODAY FURTHER DEFUSING A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

6. THE NOAA STATEMENT ON HURRICANE FIFI WAS TRANSLATED AND SENT OUT AS SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE TO ALL HONDURAN NEWSPAPERS AND MAJOR RADIO NETWORKS.
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